

# SCIENCE

A Supplement to Weekly Reader Primary Edition



## DISCOVER THE DESERT

The desert is a very dry place. Usually, a desert gets less than 10 inches of *precipitation*, or moisture that falls from the sky, per year. With little moisture, it is hard for many things to live in the desert. But many plants and animals have learned to live in the desert.



# DESERT DWELLERS

## Kangaroo Rat

Kangaroo rats move by hopping on their back legs. Their long tails help them balance when they hop. A kangaroo rat survives in the desert by gathering food at night. Also, a kangaroo rat does not need to drink water. It uses water from its food.



—Paul Berquist/Animals Animals



—Francois Gohier/  
Animals Animals

## Desert Tortoise

Desert tortoises stay cool in *burrows*, or holes in the ground. When a tortoise is in danger, it pulls its head and legs into its shell. Its shell helps *camouflage*, or disguise, the tortoise because its shell looks like a rock.



—John Gerlach/Animals Animals

## Cactus

The cactus is a type of plant that can survive in the desert. A cactus has long, deep roots. Its roots collect water. The cactus holds the water in its thick stem. Its waxy skin helps hold the water. Most cactuses have spines on their skin. The spines help protect the plant from being eaten by animals.



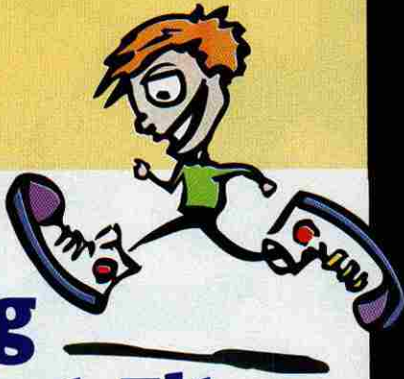
—Jim Steiberg/  
Animals Animals



## Tarantula

The desert tarantula (tah-RAN-choo-lah) is a spider that survives in the desert by sleeping during the day. Once the desert is cooler, the tarantula wakes up. The tarantula lives in a hole. It walks

around the desert looking for food. But it rarely wanders far from its home. A tarantula has eight legs and usually walks slowly. When a tarantula spots food, it then moves quickly to catch its prey.



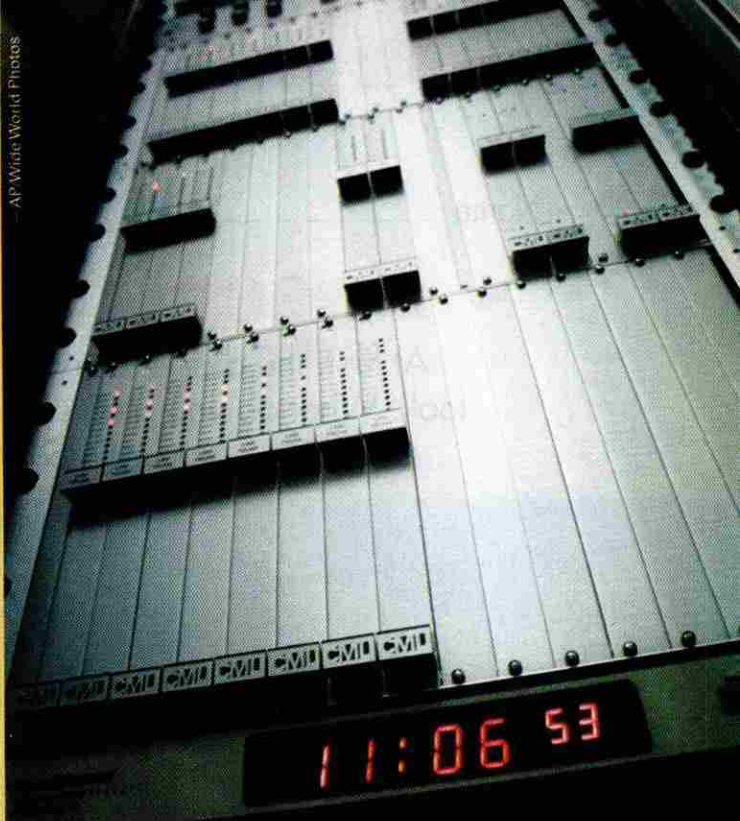
## Keeping Your Feet Fit

Feet are important because you use them every day. So treat them that way! Tight shoes can cause pain, blisters, and calluses. When buying new sneakers or shoes, it is important to buy the right ones. Use these tips to keep your feet fit.

- **Make sure there is about an inch of wiggle room for your toes.**



- **Don't wait for shoes to "break in." Shoes should be comfortable right from the start.**



## Tick-Tock

Atomic clocks keep time better than any other clocks. An atomic clock loses less than a second in a million years. Atomic clocks help keep everything in the world *synchronized*, or at the same exact time. Without atomic clocks, the Internet would not work well because computers would be using different times.

